

What Is Claimed Is:

Sub A1

1. An electronic information management server, comprising:
feature extracting means for extracting a feature of electronic
information stored in storing means connected to a network;
deciding means for deciding whether the electronic information is
to be deleted from the feature extracted by the feature extracting means
based on an instruction from a client; and
deleting means for deleting from the storing means via the network
the electronic information decided to be deleted by the deciding means.

2. An electronic information management server, comprising:
storing means connected to a network for storing electronic
information;
feature extracting means for extracting a feature of the electronic
information stored in the storing means;
deciding means for deciding whether the electronic information is
to be deleted from the feature extracted by the feature extracting means
based on an instruction of a client; and
deleting means for deleting from the storing means the electronic
information decided to be deleted by the deciding means.

3. An electronic information management server, comprising:
storing means connected to a network for storing electronic
information;
feature extracting means for extracting a feature of the electronic
information stored in the storing means;

instructing and operating means for instructing the feature of the electronic information;

deciding means for deciding whether the electronic information is to be deleted from the feature extracted by the feature extracting means based on an instruction from the instructing and operating means; and

deleting means for deleting from the storing means the electronic information decided to be deleted by the deciding means.

4. The electronic information management server according to claim 1, wherein the deciding means decides whether the electronic information is to be deleted based on a feature comprising a character string.

5. The electronic information management according to claim 1, wherein the deciding means decides whether the electronic information is to be deleted based on a feature comprising an image.

6. The electronic information management server according to claim 1, wherein the deciding means decides whether the electronic information is to be deleted based on a feature comprising a similar image.

7. The electronic information management server according to claim 1, wherein the deciding means decides that other electronic information related to specific electronic information is also deleted together with the specific electronic information decided to be deleted based on the feature.

8. An electronic information management server, comprising:
temporarily storing means for temporarily storing electronic
information sent via a network; and
deleting means for deleting the electronic information stored in the
temporarily storing means at a predetermined timing.

9. The electronic information management server according to
claim 8, wherein the deleting means deletes the electronic information from
the temporarily storing means after a predetermined period of time has
elapsed.

10. An electronic information management client that instructs
deletion of electronic information stored in storing means connected to a
network, comprising:
instructing and operating means for instructing a feature of the
electronic information to be deleted.

11. The electronic information management client according to
claim 10, further comprising inputting means for inputting the feature and
transferring it to the instructing and operating means.

12. An electronic information management method, comprising
the steps of:

extracting a feature of electronic information stored in storing
means connected to a network;
deciding whether the electronic information is to be deleted from a
previously extracted feature based on an instruction from a client; and

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deleting from the storing means via the network the electronic information decided to be deleted.

13. An electronic information management method, comprising the steps of:

storing predetermined electronic information;
extracting a feature of the stored electronic information;
deciding whether the electronic information is to be deleted from a previously extracted feature based on an instruction from a client; and
deleting the electronic information decided to be deleted.

14. The electronic information management method according to claim 12, wherein whether the electronic information is to be deleted is decided based on a feature comprising a character string instructed by the client.

15. The electronic information management method according to claim 12, wherein whether the electronic information is to be deleted is decided based on a feature comprising an image instructed by the client.

16. The electronic information management method according to claim 12, wherein whether the electronic information is to be deleted is decided by obtaining a feature comprising an image instructed by the client based on image features having a similar image of the image.

17. The electronic information management method according to claim 12, wherein other electronic information related to specific electronic

information is also decided as a deletion object together with the specific electronic information decided to be deleted based on the feature.

18. An electronic information management method, comprising the steps of:

temporarily storing electronic information sent from a network;

and

deleting the temporarily stored electronic information at a predetermined timing.

19. The electronic information management method according to claim 18, wherein the temporarily stored electronic information is deleted after a predetermined period of time has elapsed.

20. The electronic information management method according to claim 18, wherein the temporarily stored electronic information is deleted based on an instruction from a sender of the electronic information.

21. The electronic information management method according to claim 18, wherein the temporarily stored electronic information is transferred based on an instruction from a sender of the electronic information.

22. An electronic information management method, when electronic information stored in storing means connected to a network is deleted, comprising the steps of:

inputting a feature of the electronic information to be deleted; and

giving a deletion execution instruction to the electronic information to be deleted extracted from the storing means according to the input feature.

23. An electronic information management method, comprising the steps of:

inputting a feature of electronic information from terminal equipment and extracting information to be deleted from the electronic information stored in storing means of the terminal equipment; and

deleting the electronic information extracted as the deletion object from the storing means according to an instruction from the terminal equipment.

24. An electronic information management method, comprising the steps of:

inputting a feature of electronic information from terminal equipment and extracting information to be deleted from the electronic information stored in storing means of the terminal equipment;

transferring the electronic information extracted as the deletion object from the storing means to a temporary storage server via a network according to an instruction from the terminal equipment; and

deleting the transferred electronic information from the storing means.

25. The electronic information management method according to claim 24, wherein a deletion timing of the electronic information stored in the temporary storage server is instructed by the terminal equipment.

26. The electronic information management method according to claim 24, wherein a transfer of electronic information stored in the temporary storage server to the terminal equipment is instructed by the terminal equipment.

27. An electronic information management method, comprising the steps of:

accepting an input of a feature of electronic information from terminal equipment and extracting information to be deleted from the electronic information stored in storing means of the terminal equipment; and

deleting electronic information extracted as the deletion object from the storing means according to an instruction from the terminal equipment.

28. A recording medium readable by a computer, recording a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform an electronic information management method, the method comprising the steps of:

extracting a feature of electronic information stored in storing means connected to a network;

deciding whether the electronic information is to be deleted from a previously extracted feature based on an instruction from a client; and

deleting from the storing means via a network the electronic information decided to be deleted.

29. A recording medium readable by a computer, recording a

program of instructions executable by the computer to perform an electronic information management method, the method comprising the steps of:

storing electronic information sent via a network in temporary
storing means; and

deleting the electronic information stored in the temporary storing means at a predetermined timing.

30. A recording medium readable by a computer, recording a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform an electronic information management method, when electronic information stored in storing means connected to a network is deleted, the method comprising the steps of:

accepting a feature of the electronic information to be deleted; and
accepting a deletion execution instruction for the electronic
information to be deleted extracted from the storing means according to the
accepted feature.

31. A recording medium readable by a computer, recording a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform an electronic information management method, the method comprising the steps of:

accepting an input of a feature of electronic information from terminal equipment and extracting information to be deleted from the electronic information stored in storing means of the terminal equipment; and

transferring the electronic information extracted as the deletion object from the storing means to a temporary storage server via a network according to an instruction from the terminal equipment and deleting the

transferred electronic information from the storing means.